

Memorandum

RNH

Date: November 24, 2003

To: Kathy Hill
Fisheries Management District Supervisor
Department of Fish and Game
Region 2
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A
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From: Department of Water Resources

Subject: For Your Files: 199~~6~~ Frenchman Lake Creel Census

In 1996, California Department of Water Resources, Northern District Student Assistant Dave Elkins and Environmental Specialist Doug Rischbieter conducted an angler survey at Frenchman Lake, Plumas County. This survey was carried out in conjunction with a recreation and angler survey of Little Last Chance Creek, which was reported in 1998 (DWR Northern District Technical Information Report No 98-1).

The 1996 Frenchman Lake data were partially discussed in a memorandum from Doug Rischbieter to DFG area biologist Ron Decoto dated May 29, 1996. However, we want to make the complete information available because these data describe angling success five years after the rotenone treatment of Frenchman Lake to remove northern pike. The lake refilled and spilled in 1995 and 1996 and recreation access and fishing conditions had returned to normal.

In 1996, Frenchman Lake anglers were contacted on 27 dates between April 27 and November 4. During this period we interviewed 357 anglers who had fished 1,002 hours, with an observed catch of 188 rainbow trout (0.19 trout per hour). In addition, 98 rainbow trout were reported caught, or reported caught and released. Mean fork length of 136 measured rainbow trout was 32.2 cm (12.7 in) (Figure 1). The largest rainbow trout measured 57.0 cm (22.4 in).

Shore anglers totaled 321 anglers who had fished 868 hours and caught 139 rainbow trout (0.16 trout per hour). They reported catching, or catching and releasing 88 additional rainbow trout.

Boat anglers totaled 36 anglers who had fished 134 hours and caught 49 rainbow trout (0.37 trout per hour). They reported catching, or catching and releasing 10 additional rainbow trout.

About 76 percent of the anglers fished exclusively with bait, 14 percent with both bait and lures, 4 percent with lures only, 4 percent with flies only, and 2 percent with both flies and bait.

Kathy Hill
November 24, 2003
Page 2

Nearly 75 percent of the anglers originated from out of state (mostly Reno and Sparks, Nevada). About 10 percent were from the Northeast Counties (mostly Plumas and Lassen), 6 percent from the Sacramento Valley (mostly Sacramento County), 5 percent from the Mountain Counties (mostly Sierra and Placer), and 3 percent from the San Francisco Bay area. The remaining one percent were widely scattered among other regions of California (Figure 2).

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this survey, please contact me at (530) 529-7393 or www.hintonr@water.ca.gov.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

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Retired Annuitant

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Spell Check: November 24, 2003